

Message Text

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72

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01

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R 291650 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0114

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E. O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETRN

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - ROLLS ROYCE DIRECTOR RESIGNS

1. GEOGGREY FAWN, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ROLLS ROYCE DERBY DIVISION WHICH PRODUCES RB-211 ENGINES FOR LOC K-HEED 1011, RESIGNED MARCH 29. UNTIL A NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR IS NAMED, D. A. HEAD, GENERAL MANAGER OF THE DIVISION WILL BE ACTING MANAGING DIRECTOR.

2. SUDDEN RESIGNATION OF FAWN AFTER 31 YEARS WITH COMPANY COMING AT A TIME WHEN RB-211 EXPERIENCING TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WITH ITS FAN DISCS HAS GIVEN RISE TO SOME SPECULATION WHETHER THE TWO ARE RELATED. WE UNDERSTAND, FROM COMPANY SOURCES, THAT THEY ARE NOT. FAWN'S RESIGNATION, WE ARE TOLD, STEMS FROM DIFFERENCES HE HAS HAD WITH RR'S CHAIRMAN SIR KENNETH KEITH AND BECAUSE OF SHIFT OF CORPORATE CONTROL FROM OLD RR HEADQUARTERS AT DERBY TO COMPANY'S LONDON OFFICES. THIS TRANSFER OF POWER HAS BEEN UNDERWAY SINCE RR BANKRUPTCY IN 1971 BUT HAS ACCELERATED SINCE KEITH TOOK OVER CHAIRMANSHIP IN OCTOBER 1972. ALTHOUGH FAWN'S DEPARTURE MAY TO SOME EXTENT AFFECT MORALE AT DERBY PLANT, IT SHOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT RB-211 PROGRAM. ANNENBERG
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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